Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 1 TO May 5, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	March 126.6	0.6%	5.5%	In March, industrial product prices rose at their second fastest annual pace since December 1995. The year-over-year increase in Canadian product prices was the second highest increase among the G-7 countries behind France. The fall in the U.S. dollar has restrained the increase in the IPPI. The IPPI would have been up 6.6% year over year if the U.S. dollar was at the same level as March 1999.
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	March 142.7	2.0%	33.1%	In March the index continued rising largely due to the upward trend in higher crude oil prices. Crude oil was up 109.7% from March 1999. The year-over-year increase in raw material prices was 33.1%, down somewhat from the 37.1% rise in February.
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	April			
Alberta	158	0.6%	23.4%	The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers. Only Alberta, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia rose in April, all of the other provinces fell.
Canada	167	-2.3%	7.1%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	March			
Alberta	511.5	11.9%	30.5%	Building permits, an indicator of investment intentions, rose by 11.9% in Alberta in March. In the first quarter of 2000, Alberta had the largest year over year increase of all the provinces, in dollar terms (up 52.7% to $733 million), of non-residential building permits.
Canada	3,244.5	11.5%	4.4%	